

DRAWING

BOOK

Old Dartmouth



Historical Society

A.

Rough Sketch of the Cruise of the U. S.

Steamer "Albatross", to Greenland, to look
after the missing steamer "Polaris"

June 24th 1873

June 24.th 1873

Got midway at 2 o'clock, and started up the East
River, bound to Portland, via St. Johns Newfoundland.
After a great amount of humming, and unnecessary
delay we at last got off. The day was dreary, and
the occasional rain made it more so, nothing of any
interest took place, during our trip up the River before
entering Long Island Sound, the beautiful country
beats along both sides, looked too comfortable
to leave for the trackless ocean, It is said both
have advantages, but I know none to equal a pleasant
home. We have a pleasant mess, and three Poets
are with us. Two remaining and go with us North.
This is our first night out, and most of the mess are
amusing themselves playing cards. So ends the first night.



Bound out!

June 25th 1873

This morning got up early and found we had beautiful calm day, the have been doing well all day, and the smooth sea and light wind has aided us. This evening the Pilot left us, at Pollock Rip. Light ship, and we are now at sea with the usual accompaniments, sea and sky. We are going along at a good rate, but rolling considerably as yet no one is sea sick, but our servants and at dinner this evening all turned out in full force, so there was not much left for any one who may be hungry. I trust to morrow will bring a fair wind. All the mess are cheerful, but its only the beginning and, one has nothing to grovel about



outside, Rint gone;

June 26th 1873

We are certainly very much favored, for the morning came in clear and bright with a rolling sea, which turned the stomachs of a few. The wind though light is favorable. To day has been rather a busy one, some ship might have rest for the people but there is none here, and even sailors groive. Read considerable of the little book, given me by my dear wife, found it full of good advice and also can^{se} just where I lack so much. It easy to believe, but to be a follower of the cross requires more than mere believe, the heart must be in it.



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Water. Water. Water. Water.

<https://archive.org/details/juniatascrewsloo00juni>

June 27th 1873

Another fine day and a good strong breeze.
but in spite of the wind we are steaming and
burning twenty tons of coal per day, when there is
no necessity for it. We have had a regular
clearing day, and plenty of work. The temperature
is getting decidedly cooler, and thick clothing
feels comfortable. Blankets at night also are
in demand. To night nearly all the ones were
playing cards and seated around the table. It
is a striking contrast with this day week. Everybody
wanted to be in the air, and another day will
bring us very near to our destination, or the first
stopping place.

June 28th 1873

We have been jogging along well at a tolerably good rate, but during the morning it has been very foggy, and this afternoon we had rain, which on board ship is rather disagreeable at any time, but at sea particularly so. To night being Saturday night we had a slight remembrance to sweetenest and wives, the ship is rolling considerably and writing is rather difficult. Did some painting to day, and have been reading a novel for want of something better. To night we have fog again, and the new moon does not amount to much.

June 29th 1873

All day long we have had heavy fog hanging
over us like an unpleasant dream, we cannot
see three times the length of the ship and we
keep our whistle going every minute and stop
every six hours to sound, (to get the depth of water)
Some of us feel particularly cheerful, for we
don't know just where we are, and may bring
up rather suddenly, my room leaked so much
this morning that I was forced to have the deck
or head caulked, although it is Sunday, I hope
to-morrow will be clear, for we can run into St
Johns, as we are off the harbor somewhat. The ship
runs considerably and writing is difficult.

June 30th 1873

This morning early we came out of the fjord and found ourselves by good luck right off the harbor of St. Johns. but several miles east of it. Four large ice bergs were in sight and they looked really beautiful as the suns rays gave them the appearance of so much polished silver. We ran in for the harbor and came to anchor about half past nine in the morning. The entrance of the harbor is very small, and high towering rocks on either side. Very little vegetation on them, but the country back of the town is quite pretty, and layed out in good farms. Everything is fish, and the men fish and women do much work that

July 1st, 1873

Went on shore this morning to see how our
coal business was getting on. Then went to do
some shopping. Got a lot of under clothing and
came to the ship at 1 P.M. All day it has been
blowing a gale, but on shore found it quite warm
in the sun. I think our preparation for the
Arctic will delay us for a week, and I really
fear our stay north will be very short. I saw
several very fine dogs to day, but they ask too
much for them, forty dollars is the general price
for a dog from six to ten months old. I will
try to get a young pup on my return but can't
say if I will succeed, but I won't give forty dollars.
We had some fine salmon to day, twenty cents each.



San Francisco, viewed from the water, near the Golden Gate

July 4th 1873

This day being the anniversary of American Independence
no work was done, Jan many of the crew liberty and
got some fives off. who were very drunk. This afternoon
the wife of the consul and daughter visited the ship and
a number of us went into the cabin to help entertain. of
course had a slight lunch, and champagne. The Capt
proposed to drink the health of our wives. That is, his
own DeLays and my own. How I did wish for a
sight of my dear one. Some other ladies visited the
ship and came in to see my room, they admired the
picture of my Pet. and said you have not been married
long. I said Why! Because you are found to have your
Wifes picture seen. and I am found of her. I think
there is now little chance of getting off very soon.

July 6th 1873.

Went to Church this morning to the English Cathedral, and enjoyed it, the church is quite fine and the music was very good. The sermon was short not over fifteen minutes, practical and good and I felt it did me good. I would often go if it were possible, but Sunday inspection always prevents. Am that we are a coal boat, the ceremony is stinted and as this is my last chance, I wanted to avail myself of it. I did think of one, more than dear to me I think. Often of the space that separates me from home, and long for the time to come when we will turn our faces homeward, but there is much to go through first before that, I don't relish this trip and dread to think of an arctic winter, I must be dull, for will hope for the best. It is hard to be so far

July 9th 1873

Left the harbor today and run out into a fog which has been getting heavier every hour.

Passed several very large ice bergs and pieces of floating ice. This sort of navigation is anything but pleasant. Nothing of any interest occurring.

July 10th 1873

This morning a little after four o'clock, came very near running on a large berg, of course there was considerable commotion. For we would soon make a hole in the ship big enough to sink her. To day the fog is so thick that it is impossible without danger to run the ship. So all we can do is to trust in Providence and I trust we will go clear of trouble.

July 13th 1873

It seems as if we were not going to get out of the fog. Each day we are in hope that it passes off. but the wind held in and so does the fog. Last evening the Engines were stopped and the ship put under sail. We don't make the speed but are rather more comfortable. This day week I went to Church and now we are out of the bounds of civilization. This is a most homie life as my little wife has heard me say. It is now blowing half a gale. and the sea becoming heavier the temp is down to 50°. I can imagine what it is at home. Everything feels and looks dreary. decidedly active. We are nearing the Great Bear Coast and I hope may soon get of bad weather.

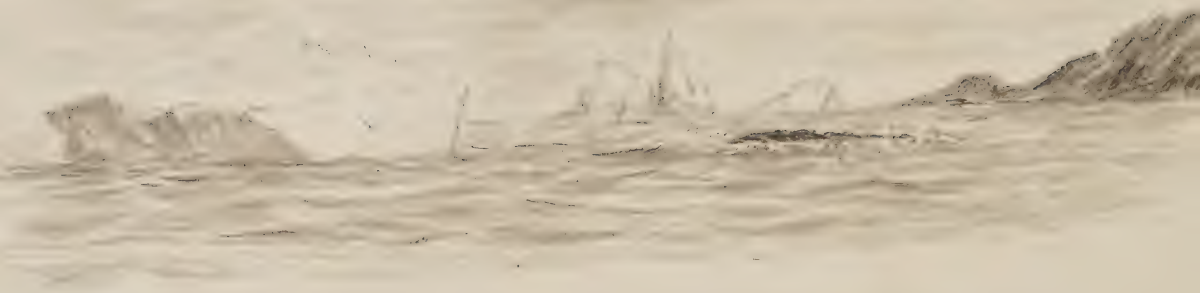
July 14th 1873

I had a heavy gale and everything uncomfortable.
Weather cold and dreary.atches battered down, for
and for, but fortunately we shipped only a few seas. I
don't care so much for a gale in the temperate
climate but here, where everything is desolate, surrounded
by ice bergs, and away from civilization a thousand
miles we don't anticipate them with pleasure.

July 15th 1873.

The gale has broken, fog cleared off, and the fair blue
sky for a week we have now. The sea is glassy and after
the fog lifted we found ourselves, in company with hun-
dreds large and small, perhaps not a thousand, and plenty
of drift ice. It was to be east the snow clad mountains of
Greenland appear, and distant as the land the mountains

The hymen of Greenland's icy mountains is not the
least over drawn. We are now navigating the Arctic
Coast, and within six miles, so we can see everything quite
plain. Not a sign of life anywhere, rocks and snow on the
land, and the ocean filled with ice, the thermometer is down
to 43° and by the aid of thick clothing we keep warm. The
fog came on again at noon to day and about 4 o'clock P.M.
The cry was heathens ahead, we stopped the Engines and backed,
and in a moment we saw some large rocks just above water.
Two minutes more would have put us on them and a camp party
certainly would have taken place for the ship would have been
necesses. Several of the largest bergs were close to the rocks. We
passed between two of them and kept farther out at sea. I
was reading on deck at 12 o'clock at night. We have no night
sun, and its rays will we have not, for we don't know half the
time where we are and our Capt. being an ~~un~~ cannot be expected
to navigate to have matters going smoothly. The ~~un~~ ~~un~~ ~~un~~



The rock upon which we came near running;

July 17th 1873

Came to anchor a few miles from the Southern of
Sukker-toppen so called from a mountain near by, which resembles
a Sugar loaf. Last evening several natives came off in their
light Kayaks by one the Capt sent a letter to the Governor to
have a Pilot take us in to the proper place ten miles further
South. This morning early we were visited by many Esquimaux
just before they ^{left} us one of them to whom we turned over three
time in his boat and came up all night again by means of
his small paddle. This is very efficient to perform, but when
we think of the temperature about 35° its no fun for me of as
to go into water they do not appear to mind the cold this is
their summer. We are now going to the town of Inoussu slugs. to
haul overland in looking on the Polar ice, I don't care much
if we do not get them for it will save much hardship, by giving
up the journey. These Esquimaux are fully in their habits, and
bark as if they never washed.

July 19th 1873

Went on shore this morning to see the town of Holstenborg
which consists of about six houses and several nests of the
natives. All was dirt and went into one hut where two of
the half breeds were playing the violin. The women were dancing
a sort of a double shuffle and kept very good time. They then
struck up "John Brown's Body" and sang the air quite well.
Then Luther Doodle of very ridiculous up in Greenland. He
said for Disco to move and hope to arrive by Monday. I
hope I have not got any of the vermin from the boat
but ever since I have been in the hut, I have had a tendency
to scratch. Anyone who would come with him glory or fame
ought to let down as insane. A big letter for Denmark to
day I have written by her, but I hope we will get home
before the letter arrives. I tried to get some skins but they
were so much that I'm glad I did not succeed.

August

July 22^d 1873

Here we are at Disco, and after a call upon the Governor, the Capt. and myself went out to examine the coal left here by the U.S.S. Congress, and found a very small pile of it. We then went into the store house and looked at the stores belonging to the Polaris, which have been here two years. The Governor will take the coal and part of the stores.

July 23^d 1873

Went out on a walk over the rough rocks, and ascended a hill for a view of the sea. Sea buoys everywhere to be seen, and one of our officers counted seven hundred and fifty in sight at one time and was not finished then. The people (natives) seem to live better here than at other places, and dress with considerable taste, (that is the women) They all dance and sing, and generally the first question asked by them, if we do not want to Ka Ka-dance) Excepted an invitation to dine with the Governor Sunday. So Capt. Brainerd, three others & myself went on

had a very comfortable dinner. There is no vegetables to
be had in Greenland and ex. food is generally used.
The Gunders wife and her sister play very well upon the
Piano and speak good English, they are from Copenhagen
and are educated people. There seems to be a perfect
insanity to get seal skins and other things in the fur and
feather line. I have caught the fever and succeeded in
getting a fur myself. but they are very good ones. The country
abounds in ducks and the water with fish. but in winter
they get very short of provisions. We have had ducks for
dinner and lunch. but they must be first skinned and
then boiled to get off the strong taste. Gave our men liberty
to go on shore, and as usual they began all sorts of rascallities
broke into the store house, and got liquor and became
drunk. and several of them are now paying for their
fores.

Dec 28. 1873

This evening the ladies of Mrs Smith. sent a beautiful

Present you Mrs Jones, with a kind note asking her to accept
it from her admirer. She only saw the photograph of my Pet.
and the face won her heart. To morrow we bid adieu
for a while to Disco.

July 29th 1873

Got to sea to-day and we now are bound for Upernivik
The northern port. The weather is beautiful, and we now have
the midnight sun. Ice bergs are in sight which are so
much larger than anything we have yet seen. That we all
think if they continue to grow in size as we get North, we may
be stopped.

July 30th 1873

The day came in cloudy, and toward dinner time began
to get foggy. We feel uneasy as we are surrounded by bergs
everywhere, and about half past six P.M. we came very near
running into a berg which was as large as our whole square & the
one on which Mr Jackson lives, and his hundred feet high, we only
cleared it by sixty feet. But we are truly taken care of by a
Kind Providence, we have had two escapes and only to come here

July 31st 1873

The ice in Commination all the mid watch for we ran in the
fog very close to some islands and a few feet more would have
put us on shore, so we came to anchor, and towards noon the
fog lifted and revealed to us all our danger, no one can imagine
how we escaped. At noon got underway and ran up to Upernivik
the poorest place we have yet seen, and no harbor. bays are
all about us and the size is something frightful. We are now
at the jumping off place and we all feel a sort of relief to think
we will in four weeks turn our faces further South. There is no
tidings of the "Polaris" but we have heard so much that I am
of the opinion that there has been some "fool play", and Hall's
death no not natural. Buddington has quarrelled at every place
they are stopped, and Capt. Hall, was so impressed with the idea
of matters going wrong, that he left all his papers and fifteen
hundred dollars in Port. funds, with J. Smith at Disco, and
while here Buddington was very drunk and wanted to fight Hall.
They quarrelled, greatly here. Buddington's reputation on the coast is very
bad, while Hall is respected by every one.

Augt. 3rd 1873

This is Sunday and for a number we are very quiet. The majority of the mices are on shore, but everything is breezy. De Long took the steam launch, named "Little Juniata" and started for Cape, distant two hundred and fifty miles. It is rather a risky undertaking, and I don't believe will result in anything. In the season is too far advanced to do anything in the way of search. Yesterday Dr. Rogers and myself went on top of one of the highest hills here. The view was very fine and the number of bags and packs to the East of us is too great to count. The Capt. has given out that he will winter at Holstenborg 400 miles South of this, but I can't see how he will do it. This is only about the fifth time he has changed his plans. I don't think he will remain. A vessel is now bound to Denmark. This is our last chance to write and we will all send letters by her.

Sunday 11th 1873

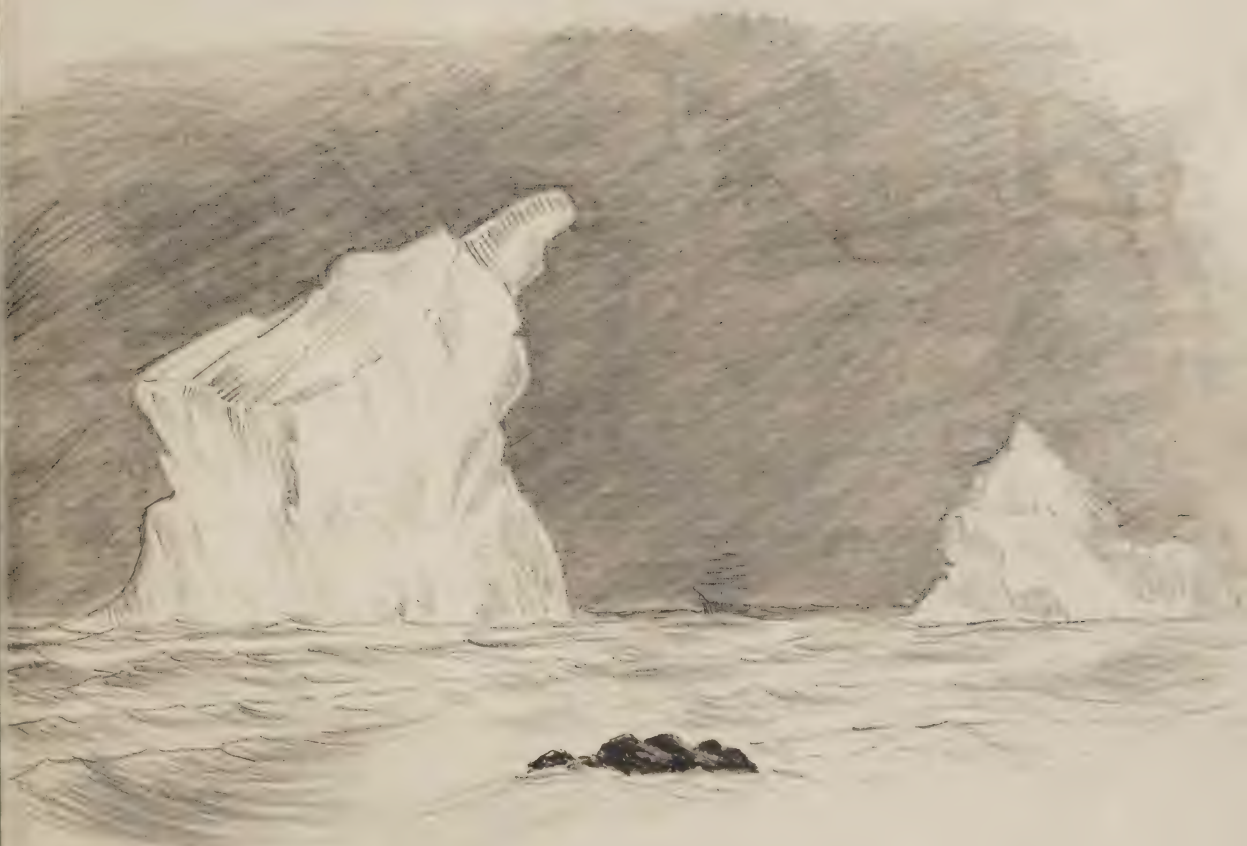
The "Tigress" made her appearance this morning and we got by her our mail and the letters from St. Louis. I have had much satisfaction in reading my letters. Even the "Tigress" nearly forty tons of coal which makes no quite short. Weather getting colder every day. "Tigress" will sail to morning.

Tuesday Aug. 12th 1873

Delong and party came back to day. Went as far South as Cape York, by saw nothing of "Polaris", ice too heavy to get out. North, and the "Tigress" will have trouble.

Wednesday Aug. 13th 1873

Gave a lunch to Governor of Repulse, and got everything ready on board. Put up steam at 4.30 P.M. Left for Disco, and right gear run all to turn this place South. These regions of eternal snow and ice, may do to read about, But no sane man would come I think without great inducements. There is nothing of the kind to make me volunteer. Weather very cold, and even the icebergs about is all of enormous size. I trust a God we may arrive safely at home.



2472.25 (miles) Comparison size of icebergs off Newfoundland is made

August 15th 1873.

Arrived at Disco this afternoon after a long and
raining head head winds and sea. Passed quantities
of drift ice and bergs. The coaling expedition has been
abandoned, and like many other ideas gotten up it
amounts to nothing. Weather rainy and cold.

Aug 17th 1873. Sunday.

Raining hard below, but on the mountain tops the
snow is falling thick, and looks very pretty in contrast
with the black rocky side, over which is falling in many
streams the result of the melting snow. We now count each
day for it lessens our time, but we have near two hundred
miles to go before we can finish the ship with coal. We have
only four days coal on steaming, so we must sail, I do not
think we will see the "Tigress" again for she is this time
in the ice, and if no opening presents, she must drift with
it, as it goes, by current and wind —

We are to send a boat away to-morrow to a place called
Ejismendi, to try and get a little coal, but it will only
be a drop in the bucket. However just now everything helps.
Weather appears like clearing off - rain has stopped. I
wonder what is going on at home to day. It is now 2.30 P.M.
at this place and at home it's just 1.44 P.M. so my dear Ben
is some from church and perhaps laying down on a nap, and
doubtless has laid to day. How very warm it is! I wish I could
also feel our lovely summer weather, and enjoy the fruit. Our
provisions are getting low, and we are feeding upon ducks which
have to be skinned and oiled before sent to table. Even when they
are often fat.

Saturday Augt 23. 74

Ben returned night before last, and had a very narrow
escape. In day our launch started for the coal mines
and had a small Danish clasp in company. They will be
gone about two weeks and, on their return we may start
for home. The sun now sets a little after eight o'clock

and we have night once more. but not dark. for it
is twilight until midnight and the sun rises early.
Each day appears colder and we look with dread at
the hills and mountain covered with snow which will
not disappear until next July. I do not know how
we would do in case we get frozen in the harbor, for
we have only about seventy five tons of coal in the ship.

I find it too cold to go about much. Still one must
take exercise. See the natives are suffering with coughs,
and many die with Consumption. I don't wonder for the
nights are so hot, and going out, half clad in cold the of
course get sick, and have no Physician to assist them.

Wednesday Aug 27th 1873

Two days ago the Tigris came in from the North, having
found what remained of the "Polaris". The ship sunk in
the early part of July behind an island called
Littletons island. The party built houses on shore, and
from the remains of the ship, built two boats in which

They started down the coast for Upernivik, but doubtless
altered their plans and went West or were picked up by
a Whaleship. The Polaris left after a stay of ten weeks. We
gave her nearly ten tons of coal, and are now very short
indeed, we were to sail to morning for the West Coast. I
went south looking for any ship that might pick up the
people, after carefully searching we go to St John N. S.
We got fifteen tons of coal from the Danish Authorities,
and have all the wood and lumber we can secure. We
may have four or five days coal in the ship. How gladly
I will feel to turn my face homeward once more, for all
here is cheerless and the desire to see those who are very dear
to me is above all else. I let duty go to the dogs, my first duty
is my wife, notwithstanding the Laws of the Navy. We sail
tomorrow as our cruising party returns.

Sunday Augt 31st 1873

After many day waiting, for good weather the

one surrounded by a beautiful day. Clear and cool
the snow of the few past days, covers the mountains &
goes down the sides into the valleys. The cold cheerless rocks
are gone and pure white hills in their place. We are now
at sea, and our faces are turned towards home. Everything
looks brighter and I believe everybody feels so. I hope in
two weeks we will get our letters at St Johns Nfld.,
and a few days after will put us home.

Friday Sept 5th 1873.

To day the weather cleared off, and the wind came
out from N. W. Since last Thursday we have had a
very heavy head sea, and at times ^{wind} against us.
But we are out of Davis straits and if we can
only keep the speed for four days longer, we may
sight the island of Newfoundland. I am now
perfectly content, for we are away out of the
region of icebergs, and each day comes us ^{home} nearer.

Thursday Sept. 10th 1873

One more we are in circulation, and have ~~received~~
our mail, from the Post Office at St John's A.D. We
have telegraphed our report to Washington and
much to our astonishment we are ordered to continue
the search for the survivors of the *Polaris*. No one likes
the order, first because the season is too far advanced
to admit of much looking, because the ice is
forming rapidly and that alone will be sufficient
to interrupt. Secondly the ship is not fitted to resist the
ice. But those people at Washington who sit in
their offices, can issue orders, without regard to safety of
lives, to system, and great want of judgment is the
general feature of most orders from Navy Dept. We
have some 2000 tons of coal and provisions the ship -
I hope four weeks will finish all -



"Bound North again."

Sept 18th 1873

To day we started once more on our Arctic Trip to continue the search for the Polario Simions, and anyone is blue in consequence. We are rolling along once more and the weather has no anything but favorable. How we think of those at home, and the thought makes me more sad.

All is going well and night has come upon us.

The temperature is growing colder each day, so we may expect something like winter, ere long.

To night to-morrow half past ten o'clock lights were seen, off our port quarter and then a rocket. Finally rockets began going up & the lights getting nearer. We ran for it thinking it a signal of distress. Found a small steamer chasing us, with the American Consul on board, who informed us, the Polario people were safe and landed at Dundee Scotland.

Sept 19.th 1873

If any set of people were made glad by news it was ourselves on receipt of the news. So we immediately changed the course, and headed for St Johns once more. We arrived here early this morning and will remain until the "Tiger" arrives, which we all hope will be very soon.

We have now plenty of time, and can enjoy ourselves very much in many ways. Riding fishing and hunting, but we all are anxious to get home. The weather is very pleasant, but the mornings and the evenings are rather cool, and overcoats are in demand. What would the temperature be compared with Portland. I getting very home sick, and feel like giving up.

October 16th 1873

This day we all feel very happy for the "Tyreis" arrived, and we now expect to get home, for the only cause to keep us here longer is removed. We are now making every preparation to leave in obedience to a telegram from my Department. I wanted to get my mail first, but each day we are on our way carries no news that we love at home. Last night we gave a little party to some ladies that many of us know. The affair passed off very well, and is talked of among the people who were not here -

Oct 18th 1873.

To day we intended to leave for New York, but
a gale blowing prevented, we now have put off
sailing until to morrow. (Sunday) and I hope in
a week we will be at home. The various bills has
been paid and the usual hurry of getting onboard
our things has taken place. There is some grumbling
and many drunken men, but they are quiet. By
some unaccountable means, liquor generally makes its
appearance just as we are leaving and it is impossible
to tell where it comes from, but men get it or it
is smuggled onboard by women who bring the wash
clothes. I trust another day will find us away
on our homeward bound trip -

Oct 19th 1873

Got up early this morning, and got everything ready for sea, and by 9 o'clock we started. The day was beautiful and wind fair. Everything indicated a spell of fine weather and all hands were feeling well. The sea outside the harbor was very heavy and we were soon rolling about at a rate to turn the stomachs of oldsters. While rolling heavily one of the men, named Thos F. Smith, was on the forward ladder in the act of going below, he slipped and pitched headlong on the deck below, fracturing his skull. Tom-fellow has never spoken, but this afternoon he rallied a little, but there is no hope. So much for going to sea on Sunday.

Sunday Oct 20th 1873.

The day came in fine and the temperature has increased since yesterday, and the hatches are off. The injured man Smith died at 9 o'clock this morning. He will be buried this afternoon, and no mark will show, the last resting place, such is a sailors grave, the trackless ocean rolls over him, so dark so deep, nothing in sight but sky and sea, such is fate of many.

We are now going along and have been out twenty four hours, in a few days God willing we will see our native shores. The burial took place this afternoon at 4 P.M. Capt Braine read the service. Everything passed off satisfactorily, but the funeral like all those at sea, are very solemn affairs.

October 21st / 1873

Since yesterday we have been doing well, and each hour takes us nearer home. We are now within six hundred miles of New York, and if we are fortunate by Saturday morning we may go into port. A strong fresh southerly wind is blowing and we are going quite fast, but the sea is heavy and the roll and pitch so much that writing is not an easy matter. To night we tried to get up some music, violin, two guitars and a flute with several voices, more noise and discord than music.

Weather fine and Every prospect of
Continuing.

Friday Oct 24th 1873

We have been very much favored by the good weather we have had during the trip so far. We are now 90 miles from Light off Sandy Hook, and to morrow if all goes well, we will be in New York, after an absence of four months. I can hardly realize it.

So many things have taken place since we left, and we have been through so much, but it's all in the chase.

